

Crossroads



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Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal | Lajes in the Fight!

Faces, stories convey true Memorial Day meaning

By Gen. Roger Brady
Commander, United States
Air Forces in Europe

RAMSTEIN Air Base, Germany — This year's Memorial Day weekend blessed me with another incredible experience made possible by my current position. Like the rest of the Air Force, USAFE Airmen covered many venues around the continent, providing static displays at air shows, honor guards, flybys, music from our USAFE band and laying wreaths at cemeteries.

I participated in two events in Paris. The first was a wreath laying at the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs Elysees, and the second was another wreath laying and brief remarks at the American cemetery in Suresnes, a suburb of Paris. The ceremonies were like most others we have all seen, but neither the flags, the music, the poignant speeches or even the flyby were what lingers in my memory of this day. It was



General Roger Brady, Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe, lays flowers at a grave of a World War I veteran at the Suresnes American Cemetery outside of Paris. From aircraft flyovers to band performances, USAFE supported more than 20 events in Europe over the Memorial Day weekend. (Photo by Susan Strednansky)

the faces and the stories. Some were the hopeful, enthusiastic faces of young school children who stood just beneath the arch, singing the French and American anthems. Lining our way

from the curb to the arch were young French soldiers, some hardly beyond childhood themselves, proudly standing at attention in ranks across from equally young and proud American

Airmen. There were old Frenchmen, veterans, tanned and weathered by time and the rigors of life, standing proudly erect though age had taken its toll and war, in some cases, had taken limbs. There were at least 25 of them, many with faded red berets perched jauntily on thinning, grey heads. Old, worn suit coats bore service ribbons and medals proudly displayed across their chests. Each carried a large French flag with battle streamers or bearing the insignia of their units.

I shook the veterans' hands and thanked them for their service. Their eyes were not dimmed by the years. Their hands, the rough, calloused hands of men who had lived hard lives, were amazingly strong and their grip was firm and determined. Most spoke little English, but it did not deter them from telling their story.

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USAFE Road Show message: make responsible choices

By Tech. Sgt. Christin Michaud
65th ABW Public Affairs

Members of the Lajes Community attended a mandatory safety briefing May 21 introducing the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

The safety briefing, courtesy of the USAFE Road Show, combined a game show, skit and real-life testimony to reiterate an important message: make responsible choices.

United States Air Forces in Europe Commander, General Roger Brady's opening remarks on the Safety Road Show via video emphasized the strong message which was to remind people how important it is to safeguard USAFE's most important asset — "You," he said.

The game show was a new addition this year. "Make or Break," was hosted by Chief Master Sgt. Burrell Hancock, chief of ground safety for USAFE. Tech. Sgt. Tammy Gretta and her wingman and husband James, were selected to be contestants. Some of the options in the cases included saving a life, or self respect. Loss of life was the option Col. J.L. Briggs, 65th Air Base Wing commander held in his case. Other USAFE leaders recorded messages with their cases as part of the game which stressed the importance of choosing wisely.

Following the game was a special investigation segment in which a reporter discovered that many people involved in vehicle accidents had "room to live," she explained. Cars today are built with

crumple zones and occupant areas are like cages. If only the occupants had worn their seat belts, they would have had room to live.

Vehicle fatalities are the #1 cause of deaths in USAFE.

"Good drivers, just drive," said Col. Robert G. Wright, Jr., director of USAFE

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UCI Countdown
100

*Days remaining
until Lajes Field's
Unit Compliance
Inspection*



General Roger Brady, Commander, United States Air Forces in Europe, greets veterans at the 2008 Memorial Day ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on May 25. (Photo by Susan Strednansky)

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As I passed along the line, I heard "Vive la France", "Vive l'America" and hurried attempts to tell me where and with what unit they had served.

Among the crowd at the arch were also a number of women, some the widows of fallen servicemen. One French lady, standing beside my wife, Litha, in the crowd, said, "My husband is buried in the crypt here. He has been dead for fifty years, but I still love him very much." Another lady, probably in her mid-seventies, came up to me and said, "I'm so honored you are here. I am a seventh generation, direct descendant of Lafayette."

From the arch we drove about thirty minutes to Suresnes cemetery. Before the ceremony, we ate a picnic lunch among the veterans, and they told me their stories. One particular man, clutching his French flag, stood on one leg supported by a peg attached where his other leg had been, with one arm hanging uselessly at his side. He told me of his experience with the French Resistance, the atrocities he had witnessed in North Africa, and how he had lost his leg in Vietnam. Probably realizing I am not a young man myself, he asked if I had served in Vietnam, and seemed pleased that I had.

I also talked to American veterans who make an annual pilgrimage to France for Memorial Day remembrances. One gentleman told me of his experiences as a medic on the beaches of Normandy in

June, 1944. He was there with one of his grandsons. Another grandson, a brother of the young man with him, was a soldier killed last week in Iraq.

Another gentleman did not, and perhaps could not, speak at all. He just opened his wallet and showed me an identification card indicating he had served in an American bomb group in World War II.

From lunch, we went to the memorial site where there were speeches, music, a 2-ship flyby from the Liberty Wing at Lakenheath and the laying of wreaths before the veterans marched with their flags down the hill to form a cordon for our departure. I shook their hands again, wished them well, and thanked our Airmen who had served as honor guard for the memorial service.

These faces, their stories, and the image of 1,565 American graves on a hillside in France make me grateful for the heritage that generation of Americans, Frenchmen and other Allies has given us, and for that same spirit of sacrifice I see in the Airmen I am privileged to lead every day. This day also reminds me that as leaders we must spend ourselves ensuring that spirit is nourished in our lives, in our Airmen and in our Allies and friends, and that we must be prepared to prevail, by force if necessary, to protect all we hold dear when every other effort fails. It was a good day.

535-4240

actionline@lajes.af.mil

The Commander's Line is your link to me for suggestions, kudos and as a way to work problems or issues within the 65th Air Base Wing for which you can't find another solution. Your chain of command



Col. JL Briggs

should always be your first option for praise or problems — but when that's not the answer, call or e-mail the Commander's Line at 535-4240 or actionline@lajes.af.mil.

Col. JL Briggs

Commander, 65th Air Base Wing



The 65th Air Base Wing Public Affairs staff prepares all editorial content in the Crossroads.

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Full replacement value in place for claims

Full Replacement Value

Personnel PCSing this summer now automatically receive full replacement value protection from the moving company on damage they might incur during a move.

All household good pick-ups after Mar. 1 will receive full replacement value protection from the moving company or carrier. Lt. Col. Eric Bee at the Air Force Claims Service Center clarifies that full replacement value, "isn't quite the same as getting all new stuff in every instance when your household goods are damaged by a carrier. Carriers will replace missing items with new items, pay the full cost to replace them or repair damaged items."

This important benefit for Airmen comes with some changes to the process.

New Claim Filing Deadline

For instance, Mr. J.D. Reese, Chief, Operations Division at the Claims Service Center explains that in most cases, individuals actually file directly with the carrier or moving company. This claim must be made within nine months of delivery. That's a big change from the two years that most Airmen are used to, said Mr. Reese.

It is still possible to file a claim with

the AFCSC but then individual's will only be paid the depreciated value of the damaged or lost goods. Likewise, if they miss the nine month deadline, they can still file a claim up to the two year point with the AFCSC for the depreciated value of the items. Finally, if unhappy with what the carrier offers, people still have the option of coming to the Air Force and filing with the AFCSC.

No More Estimates of Repair

Although the timeline for filing a full replacement value claim is shorter, claims are much easier to file. Airmen are no longer required to get estimates of repair, a very time consuming part of the old claims process. Now carriers are required to obtain the repair estimates. Carriers also don't require as much detail about the items because they no longer have to calculate depreciation.

On-line from Start to Finish

Additionally, effective May 15, Air Force members (and civilians being moved by the Air Force) can now file their pink forms (DD Form 1840R) online. Just go to <https://claims.jag.af.mil> and list the damage within 70 days of delivery. Members get confirmation that the pink forms have been received and dispatched to the carrier.

Filing a DD Form 1840R on-line is not filing a claim. It's simply putting the carrier on notice that you've noticed additional loss/damage since delivery, but within 70 days. You'll still need to file your claim with the carrier within 9 months.

Remember, to recover money for lost or damaged goods, you must both notify the carrier of damaged or lost goods at delivery or within 70 days of delivery using the 1840R **and** file a claim within the required time frame (9 months if you want to file against the carrier for full replacement value or 2 years if you want to file against the Air Force for depreciated value).

Colonel Bee reminds Airmen that the Air Force Claims Service Center is always here to help. "We're here 24/7 to answer questions from Airmen about their claims. There is never any long voice mail menu – just press 1 to talk to an expert. To file a claim against the Air Force under the old system, Airmen can still file their claims at our website: <https://claims.jag.af.mil>. For questions, they can still call us DSN 986-8044 or toll free 877-754-1212."

(Courtesy of Air Force Claims Center)

Choices *continued from page 1*

Safety. Too often driver's get caught up in changing music, talking on their cell phones or even text messaging. When distracted by these things, it is easy to miss something you're not looking for, a message that was also conveyed during the briefing.

"The Wing Safety office encourages those at Lajes to have fun and enjoy the beautiful Azorean summer," said Lt. Col. Brian Walker, chief of safety. "Just remember, while participating in on and off-duty activities, to use common sense and take care of each other. Staying safe is super easy and smart, all you have to do is 'eliminate all unnecessary risks,'" he said. "Think about that phrase ... doesn't it make sense to avoid a risk that you do not have to take?"

One of the most powerful moments is when the silly skit turned into a testimonial. Staff Sgt. Joshua Rapp, Senior Air-

man Cole Montgomery, and Senior Airman Jason Thigpen performed a skit illustrating responsible choices. In the skit, Sergeant Rapp was the responsible one. He helps his buddies get home safe. When his friends want to go out and take the motorcycle for a spin, the skit stops. Sergeant Rapp tells the others that this is real life and proceeded to tell audience members about how this happened to him. They had a plan when they went out. They even made it home safely. But that is where the plan stopped. Sergeant Rapp made the choice to drive his roommate's new motorcycle after he had been drinking. He didn't wear a helmet and now has a scar that covers almost one side of his head. "I was always one of those kids that said it would never happen to me," he said. He was lucky though. Not because the Air Force picked up his \$120,000 medi-



Staff Sgt. Joshua Rapp, Senior Airman Cole Montgomery, and Airman 1st Class Miguel Valdez performed a skit during the USAFE Road Show at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany May 12, illustrating responsible choices. The Show came to Lajes May 21 for a 101 Critical Days of Summer briefing. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Heather Norris)

cal tab, but because he was alive today to share his story.

Every 15 minutes someone's bad decision costs a life. USAFE has lost 17 Air-

men since October 2005, according to Lt. Gen. Rod Bishop, 3rd Air Force commander. "It's your life, your choice – choose wisely."



Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10 a.m. Thrift Store Open 10 a.m. Sponsorship Training 5 p.m. Teen Money Matters, LYP 6 p.m. Build Your Own Pasta Buffet, TORC 7 p.m. Nim's Island (PG) 7 p.m. LYP Dance Party 7:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling 10 p.m. Stop Loss (R)	10 a.m. Kid's Paintball, age 9-12, Outdoor Rec Noon Asian Cultural Fair, community center ballroom 1 p.m. Services Spring Scavenger Hunt, community center 7 p.m. Nim's Island (PG) 7:30 p.m. Cosmic Bowling 10 p.m. 21 (PG-13)	9 a.m. Evangelical Service 9 a.m. CCD 10:30 a.m. Mass 10 a.m. Sailing Trip, Outdoor Rec Noon Praise Service 2 p.m. Nim's Island (PG) 6:30 p.m. Bullfight, Praia Beach 7 p.m. Stop Loss (R)	6 a.m. Oceanview open for breakfast - start earning your Extreme Summer points 10 a.m. Thrift Store open 10 a.m. Library open 1 p.m. Call 535-HAWC to schedule a MicroFit. 6 p.m. Spin Class, cycle room 97 days left until the UCI	10 a.m. EDIS Playgroup, LYP Noon Women's Bible Study, lunch provided, chapel 1 p.m. Seamstress available, community center 5:20 p.m. Step Class, Chace Fitness Center 5:30 p.m. Mongolian BBQ, TORC 6 p.m. Spin class, CFC	8:30 a.m. Spouses Coffee & Donuts, TORC 9 a.m. Preseparation counseling, A&FRC 11 a.m. Bowl w/ your Boss special 3 p.m. CCAF Graduation, TORC 5 p.m. Family Night, bowling alley 6 p.m. Open Play Volleyball 6:30 p.m. \$.35 Wings, TORC	Noon OU Lunch & Learn, ed center Noon LYP and CDC Parents Advisory Board Meeting, TORC 5:20 p.m. Body Sculpting, Chace Fitness Center 6 p.m. Spin Class, CFC 7 p.m. 21 (PG-13) 9 p.m. Chili Dog & Karaoke, TORC

Community Events

Bullfights: 6:30 p.m. Saturday: Poço da Areia, Praia; Corpo Santo, Angra; and Feteira. 6:30 p.m. Sunday: Praia Beach; and Figueiras Pretas (near Angra).

Aladdin – A story to dance: (Ballet production by Eduarda Rosa's ballet classes. Choreography by Eduarda Rosa). Portion of the proceeds go to "Liga Portuguesa Contra o Cancro" (Fight Against Cancer). 8:30 p.m. today or 4 p.m. Saturday at "Teatro Angrense"- Rua da Esperanca, Angra do Heroismo. Tickets are available from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and 7 to 8:30 p.m. today and 12:30 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

Hunger Walk: The Town Hall of Angra do Heroismo and Cultur-Angra have organized the 2008 Hunger Walk in support of the United Nations Food For All Program 10 a.m. June 1. The walk begins at Praca Almeida Garrett in Angra and ends at Silveira, Angra. Cost is 10 Euros (each person receives a T-shirt and one cap per ticket). Tickets may be purchased at (BES) Banco Espirito Santo in Praia da Vitoria, Angra or Peter store in Angra today or Praca Almeida Garrett on the day of the event.

Thrift Store 535-4146

The Thrift Shop will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jun. 6. Join us as we celebrate summer and introduce new hours. POC: Michelle Goynes 535-4146.

Swimming Pool 535-3363

The base swimming pool is scheduled to open Jun. 12. Pool passes will also be available for purchase on that date. Hours will be noon to 7 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Swimming lessons available. POC: Al Azera, 535-4140.

Education

CCAF Graduation: The Spring 2008 CCAF graduation is 3 p.m. Wednesday in the TORC ballroom. Graduates who complete their Associate's, Bachelor's or Master's from any accredited college are welcome to participate. Call 535-5291.

AFCT Testing Schedule: The MPE will be giving the Armed Forces Classification Test Jun. 26. For details or to sign up to take this test, e-mail william.franklin@lajes.af.mil by Jun. 24.

Lunch and Learn: The University of Oklahoma will host a free Lunch and Learn entitled "What's Next: Putting Your OU Master's Degree to Work," from noon to 1 p.m. Thursday in the ACE Auditorium. Lunch provided.

UMUC Term 5 Classes: Introduction to Business and Management (BMGT110) and three weekend seminars: Information Literacy and Research Methods (LIBS150), Production Graphics (CMST100D) and Resume Writing (EDCP108A) Registration is currently underway. Call 535-4187 or e-mail cjessop@ed.umuc.edu.

Central Texas College Term 5: Term 5 registration continues through Jun. 6. CTC is offering Fundamentals of Criminal Law, CJSA 1327, 3 credits and Gangs in the Military, CJSA 1176, 1 credit. Both will be held onsite. For details, call 535-6722 or visit <http://www.europe.ctcd.edu/>

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University: MGMT 411 Logistics Management for Aviation/Aerospace (May 31 to June 6), SCTY 415 Studies in Intelligence II (June 16 to 22), ASCI 405 Aviation Law (July 7 to 13). For details, call 535-3375.

University of Phoenix: Get a degree in as little as 18 months. Phoenix offers a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Education at a discounted military rate. Courses are 3-6 weeks online. Call 535-1970 or e-mail Jennifer.Wells@phoenix.edu.

Dining Facility

New Hours: The new Dining Facility dinner meal hours of 4 to 6:30 p.m. will take effect Jun. 16. These hours apply every day of the year.

HAWC 535-3889

Fitness Library: The HAWC has up-to-date fitness DVD's for check out.

MicroFit Assessment: Find out how fit you really are. The LAJES HAWC offers a full MicroFit assessment on active-duty, dependents and local nationals. Call 535-HAWC and set up an appointment.

Post Office

Postal Hours Change: Starting Jun. 6, the parcel pick-up window and finance window will be closed Fridays. Customers will still have access to their boxes.

Classified Ads

E-mail classified ads to news@lajes.af.mil by 5 p.m. the Thursday prior to the week you need it published. Notify the Crossroads when items have been sold. Lajes personnel may also post ads at Lajesads.com. This site is not affiliated with the Crossroads.

Dr. Shoals and the Tired Dogs: Seeking a lead/rhythm guitar player. Experience preferred but will work with the right person. Must be available for rehearsals and weekend gigs. If you'd like to try your hand at being a Tired Dog, call Larry - home phone, 295-516-218; work phone, 535-1218; cell, 962-955-834; or e-mail: ucoffs@yahoo.com

For Sale: 7'6" Epoxy/Tri-Fin Surfboard with board bag. Excellent Condition \$280. Call Brian 535-6137 or 295-549-499.

For Sale: 97 Ford Ranger Extended Cab XLT 4x4, (159,500 miles) original owner, call Rick 295-905-311 \$3,400. Firm

Wanted: Donations needed! PCSing? Spring Cleaning? Please donate your unwanted items, such as clothes, household items, toys, books, etc. The High School uses your donations to raise money for traveling sports teams. Show your support and donate! We will pick up your donations! Email Lajes15@yahoo.com or call 295-549-206 Thank you!